

Your tests are coming up. Are you excited? Ha ha. Of course not. I was talking to my class about cheating¹ the other day. Students think they can cheat at tests, but they forget that teachers were students too, once. Every way of cheating you can think of, we have already thought of. But then we started talking about smart contact lenses, which already exist in some form. If you had smart contact lenses, you could just look at the test and your contacts would give you all of the answers. What will we do then? I guess we'll have to change the way that we evaluate students.

Something You Didn't Know (Walt Disney)

1. Before Mickey Mouse, Disney made Oswald the Lucky Rabbit. He was working at a different studio and when he left he wasn't allowed to take Oswald with him so he came up with Mickey.
2. Until 1947 Walt Disney did the voice for Mickey Mouse.
3. Mickey Mouse's original name was Mortimer Mouse. Walt Disney's wife thought the name was too pompous² so she persuaded³ him to change it.
4. Disney had an apartment over the firehouse on Main Street in Disneyland, California. He liked to work there and enjoyed watching people enjoy his park. Everything has been left untouched since he died, like a shrine.



You are braver than you believe,
stronger than you seem, and
smarter than you think.

Frozen II Predicted To Excel

Next weekend, Disney will release “Frozen II”. It is the sequel to the 2013 blockbuster. Many people think that the new movie will be an even bigger success than the first one and it is predicted to⁴ bring in over \$1 billion⁵. If it does, it will be Disney's sixth billion-dollar film of this year. So far this year, Disney has released⁶ “Toy Story 4” (\$1billion), “Aladdin” (\$1.03billion), “Captain Marvel” (\$1.12billion), “The Lion King” (\$1.34billion), and “Avengers: Endgame” (\$2.79billion). Not a bad year.



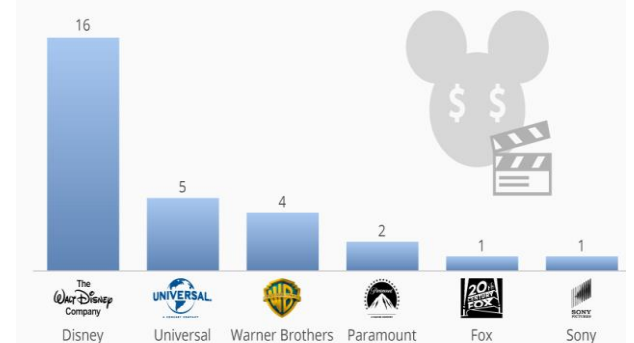
“Avengers: Endgame” has become the highest grossing⁷ movie ever. If “Frozen II” reaches the billion mark⁸, and the new “Star Wars” movie in December, Disney will have had a year that will be hard to beat. Because all of the children that fell in love with “Frozen” are now pretty much teenagers, Disney has given “Frozen II” a slightly more adult theme. Apparently, it is a coming-of-age⁹ movie.

The first movie was such a surprise hit that some people are skeptical¹⁰ that this movie will be as good. I am confident that Disney will work their magic. I know that I will go and see it. I think, though, that I will probably be on my own. I wanted to take my daughter to see it, but she says that she is “bored of Frozen”. So, if you go to see it, and you see a man on his own eating popcorn and crying, say, “hello”.

Who Makes Billion Dollar Blockbusters?

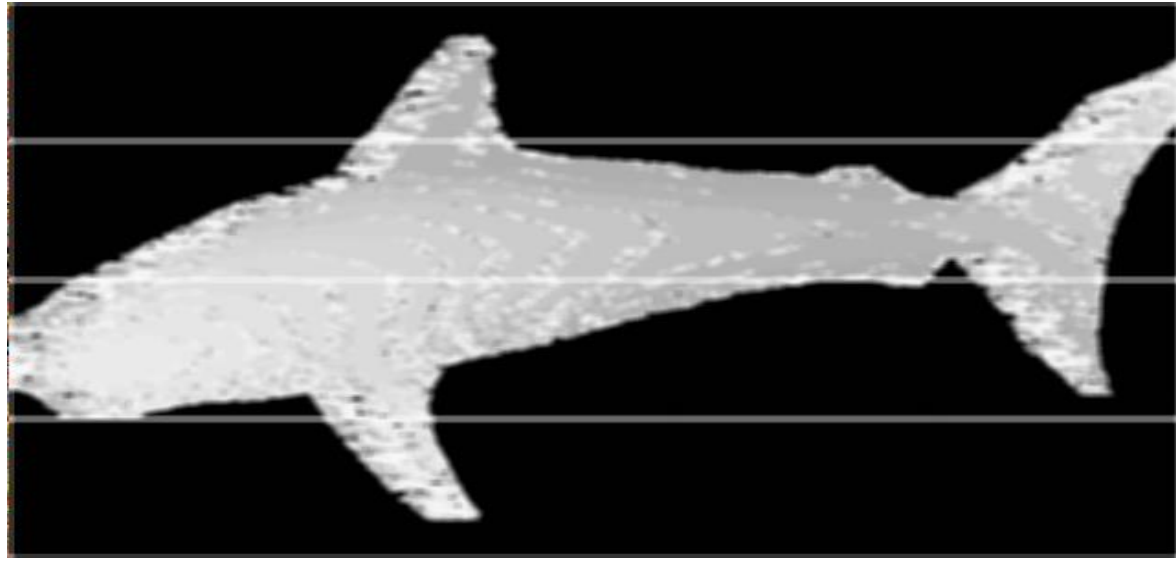
Total number of movies grossing \$1 billion or more, by production studio

9 out of the 10 largest box office openings are Disney Movies

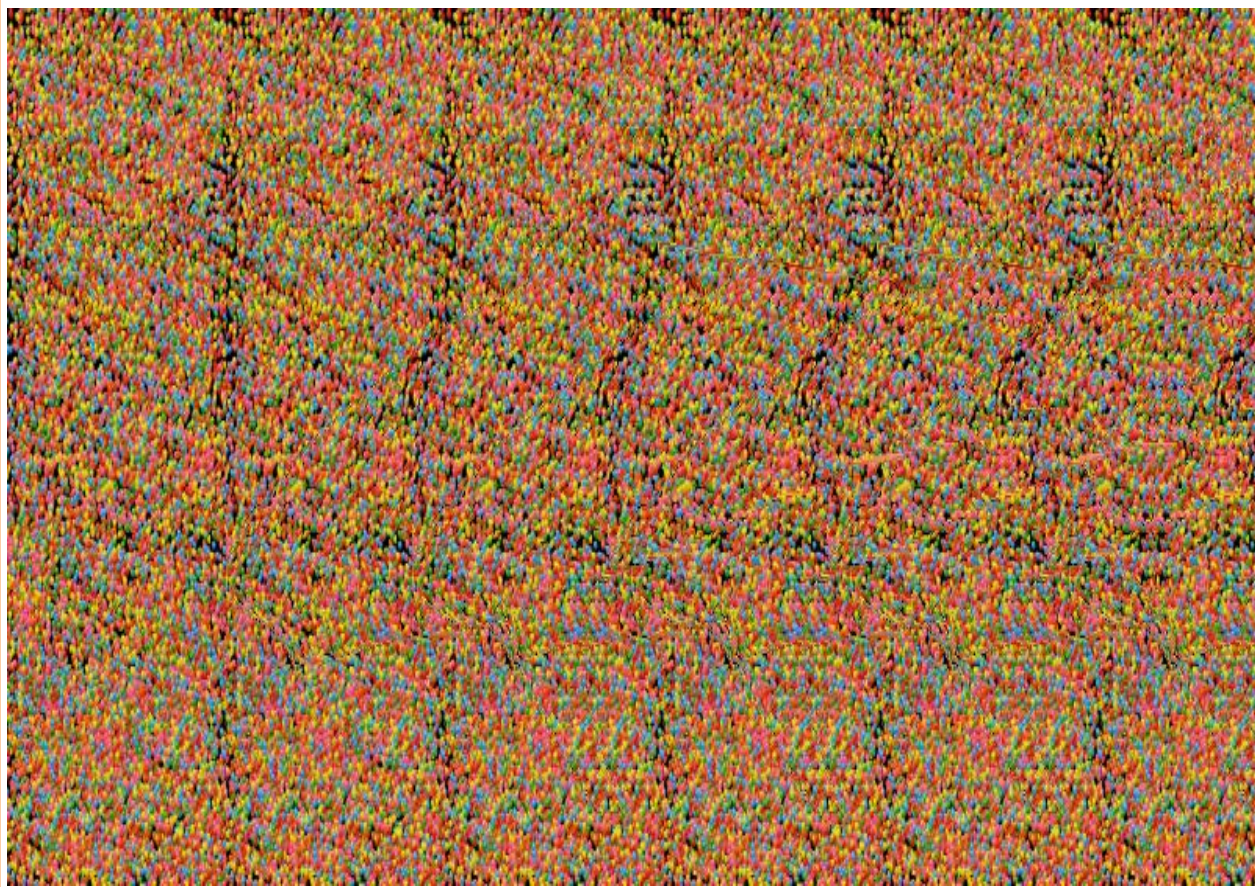


- 1.Cheating カンニングする 2.Pompous 偉そうな 3.Persuade 説得する 4.Predicted to 予想される 5.Billion 10億 6.Release 発売する 7.Gross 総計 8.Mark レベル 9.Coming-of-age 成人の 10.Skeptical 懐疑的な

I realized that some people can't see magic eye pictures. Here is how to see them. This picture of a shark is in the picture below. It is not hidden. You just have to change the way you focus¹. If you look at the picture and relax your eyes until the two dots become three, you should be able to see the shark come out of the picture.



What can you see?



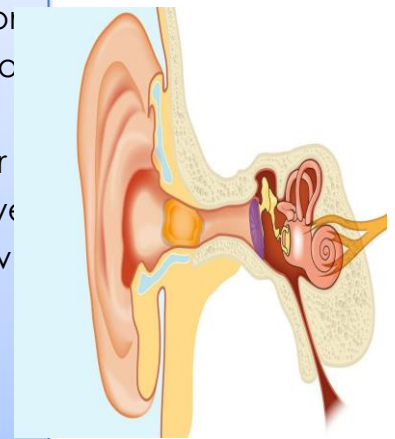
Something Big and Small

I had eggs for breakfast which made me think of this topic. I remember my brother having a fried ostrich² egg a while ago and it took him an hour to cook it because it was so big. Do you know what the biggest and smallest bird eggs in the world are? The largest egg ever laid was a 2.5kg ostrich egg. Conversely³, the smallest egg is laid by the bee hummingbird⁴. It weighs 0.025g. I thought that dinosaurs would have had much bigger eggs than this, but it turned out that I was wrong. The largest dinosaurs (the Argentinasaurus that weighed up to 100 tons) had eggs that were only about 30cm long. Not much bigger than the ostrich egg. It seems amazing that a baby dinosaur could grow from 30cm and about 3kg to a behemoth⁵ of 40m and 100 tons. There are many reasons, but no space to explain them.



Why do we...

... have ears on the sides of our head? Some animals, like snakes, have an ear hole. Some animals, like cats, have ears on the tops of their heads that they can turn to find the direction of a sound. So, why are our ears on the side of our head? The simple explanation is because they are near to the part of our brain that analyzes⁶ sounds. If they were in a different place, we would have to have a very long ear canal, which would allow for more problems in hearing. In fact, cats don't really have ears on top of their heads. Their ear canals are in the same place as ours, but they have long outer ears that are used as sound funnels. Our ears cannot turn, but they do have many curves and folds which amplify⁷ the pitch of human speech.



1.Focus 焦点 **2.Ostrich** ダチョウ **3.Conversely** 逆に **4.Hummingbird** ハミングバード **5.Behemoth** 巨大な (旧約聖書の『ヨブ記』で言及されている強大な動物。カバを指すとも象を指すともいわれるが、正確な意味は分かっていない。) **6.Analyze** 分析する **7.Amplify** 増強する